

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A drug delivery system consisting of one or more compartments and comprising a progestogenic compound dissolved in a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer whereby,
  - if the delivery system consists of one compartment, the compartment comprises
    - (i) a core of a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer comprising the progestogenic compound, such the progestogenic compound being dissolved in the polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer up to a concentration below the saturation level at 25°C, and an estrogenic compound; and
    - (ii) a skin of a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer covering the core, said the skin being permeable for both compounds;
  - if the delivery system consists of more than one compartment, only one compartment comprises
    - (iii) the progestogenic compound, such the progestogenic compound being dissolved in a core of a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer up to a concentration below the saturation level at 25°C, and an estrogenic compound; and
    - (iv) a skin of a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer covering the core, said the skin being permeable for both compounds.
2. (Original) A drug delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the progestogenic compound is a steroidal progestogenic compound and/or the estrogenic compound is a steroidal estrogenic compound.
3. (Currently Amended) A drug delivery system according to ~~anyone of claims 1 and 2~~ claim 1, wherein the polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer of the core is a copolymer containing 30 to 50 wt% vinylacetate.
4. (Currently Amended) A drug delivery system consisting of one or more compartments and comprising a progestogenic compound dissolved in a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer whereby,
  - if the delivery system consists of one compartment, the compartment comprises

- (i) a core of a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer, said the copolymer containing 30 to 50 wt% vinylacetate, and said the core comprising a progestogenic compound, said the progestogenic compound being dissolved in the polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer up to a concentration below the saturation level at 25°C, and an estrogenic compound; and
- (ii) a skin of a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer covering the core, said the copolymer containing 1 to 15 wt% vinylacetate, said the skin being permeable for both compounds, and said the skin having a thickness in the range of 10 to 110 µm;
  - if the delivery system consists of more than one compartment, only one compartment comprises
- (iii) the progestogenic compound, such the progestogenic compound being dissolved in a core of a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer up to a concentration below the saturation level at 25°C, said the copolymer containing 30 to 50 wt% vinylacetate, and an estrogenic compound; and
- (iv) a skin of a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer covering the core, said the copolymer containing 1 to 15 wt% vinylacetate, said the skin being permeable for both compounds, and said the skin having a thickness in the range of 10 to 110 µm.

5. (Currently Amended) A drug delivery system consisting of one or more compartments and comprising a progestogenic compound dissolved in a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer whereby,

- if the delivery system consists of one compartment, the compartment comprises
  - (i) a core of a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer, said the copolymer containing 30 to 50 wt% vinylacetate, and said the core comprising a progestogenic compound, such the progestogenic compound being dissolved in the polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer up to a concentration below the saturation level at 25°C, and an estrogenic compound; and
  - (ii) a skin of a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer covering the core, said the copolymer containing 14 to 28 wt% vinylacetate, said the skin being permeable for both compounds, and said the skin having a thickness of 70 to 250 µm;
    - if the delivery system consists of more than one compartment, only one compartment comprises
  - (iii) the progestogenic compound, such the progestogenic compound being dissolved in a core of a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer up to a concentration below the saturation level at 25°C, said the copolymer containing 30 to 50 wt% vinylacetate, and an estrogenic compound; and

(iv) a skin of a thermoplastic polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer covering the core, said the copolymer containing 14 to 28 wt% vinylacetate, said the skin being permeable for both compounds, and said the skin having a thickness of 70 to 250 µm.

6. (Currently Amended) A drug delivery system according to anyone of claims 1-5 claim 1, wherein the progestogenic compound is etonogestrel.
7. (Original) A drug delivery system according to claim 6 wherein the release on day 21 of etonogestrel of the drug delivery system is 80  $\square$ g / day or more.
8. (Currently Amended) A drug delivery system according to anyone of claims 1-7 claim 1, wherein the estrogenic compound is ethinyl estradiol
9. (Currently Amended) A drug delivery system according to anyone of claims 1-8 claim 1, wherein the system is ring-shaped.
10. (Currently Amended) A drug delivery system according to anyone of claims 1-9 claim 1, wherein the drug delivery system consists of one compartment.
11. (Currently Amended) A drug delivery system according to anyone of claims 1-10 claim 1, wherein the drug delivery system is a drug delivery system for intravaginal use.
12. (Currently Amended) A drug delivery system according to anyone of claims 1-11 claim 1, wherein the drug delivery system does not need special storage and transportation conditions at a temperature below room temperature.
13. (Original) A method of manufacturing a drug delivery system according to claim 9 comprising the steps of:
  - (i) producing a medicated homogenous polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer core granulate, comprising a progestogenic and an estrogenic compound;
  - (ii) co-extruding the core granulate with a polyethylene vinylacetate copolymer skin granulate, resulting in a copolymer fiber comprising a core covered by a skin;
  - (iii) assembling the fibre into a ring.
14. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein the core granulate in step (i) is lubricated with a lubricant.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of the drug delivery system of claims 1-12 for the manufacture of a~~ A contraceptive kit or kit for hormone-replacement therapy comprising the drug delivery system according to claim 1.
  
16. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of the drug delivery system of claims 1-12 for the manufacture of a~~ A combination preparation to provide contraception whilst simultaneously to treat and/or prevent a sexually transmitted disease comprising the drug delivery system according to claim 1.